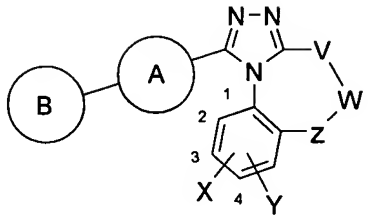
In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula **(I)**,



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester, or amide thereof, wherein

V represents $-(CH_2)_d(O)_e-$, -CO-, or $-CH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)-$;

W is -O-, $-S(O)_a-$, or $-N(R^1)-$

R^1 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $(CH_2)_bCOR^2$, $CO(CH_2)_bNR^2R^3$, SO_2R^2, $(CH_2)_cOR^2$, $(CH_2)_cNR^2R^3$, or $(CH_2)_bhet^1$;

het^1 represents a saturated or unsaturated heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;

X and Y independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, OH, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^4;

Z represents $-(CH_2)_f(O)_g-$, -CO- or $-CH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)-$;

Ring **A** represents a 4-7 membered, saturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

Ring **B** represents phenyl or a 4-7 membered unsaturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, $CONH_2$, CF_3, OCF_3, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

R^2 and R^3 independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or C_{1-6} alkyloxy], C_{1-6} alkyloxy, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or [C_{3-8} cycloalkyl];
or R^2 and R^3, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached independently represent a heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^4 represents straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl;

a and c independently represent 0, 1, or 2;
b, e and g independently represent 0 or 1; and
d and f independently represent 1 or 2.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_bCOR^2$ or SO_2R^2.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is methyl.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is morpholinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, $N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)_2$, or C_{1-6} alkyloxy] or NMe_2).

6. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is H.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y is in the 4-position of the phenylene ring (according to the numbering of formula **(I)**) to which it is attached.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is chloro.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** is linked to ring **B** via a nitrogen atom in ring **A**.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** represents piperidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, and optionally at least one N is substituted with O).

11. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, $CONH_2$, CF_3, OCF_3, and optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O).

12. (original) A compound according to claim 11, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein V represents $-CH_2-$.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Z represents $-CH_2-$.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein when R^2 and R^3 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a heterocycle, the heterocycle is selected from piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, pyrimidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, or morpholinyl, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene dibesylate;

8-chloro-5-isopropyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-ethanone dihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

13-chloro-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-8-oxa-2,4,5-triaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-2-dimethylamino-ethanone;

[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone;

(+) or (-) 8-chloro-5-(4-methyl-morpholin-2-ylmethyl)-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

8-chloro-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

13-chloro-9-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,9-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene; and

13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, esters, or amides thereof.

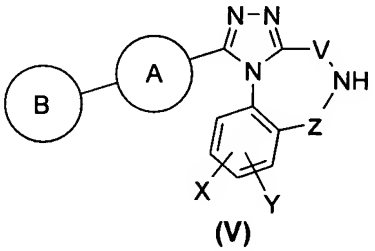
17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A method of treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of dysmenorrhoea (primary or secondary) and anxiety comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a patient suffering from such a disorder.

19. (original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claims 20-23 (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A process for making a compound of formula **(I)** as defined in claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester, or amide thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula **(V)**



(V)

with a compound of formula **(VII)**

(VII)

wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups R^1, X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1.

Claims 25-26 (canceled)